

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, November 19, 2004

DON'T FORGET SAFETY DURING THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY SHOPPING—AND TRAVEL—SEASON

The week of Thanksgiving marks the “official” beginning of the holiday shopping—and travel—season. And again this year, the MPDC is encouraging everyone to include some common-sense safety tips on their holiday lists this year. Remember: many criminals love the holidays as much as everyone else, because they know that people tend to let down their guards and create opportunities for crime during the hustle and bustle of the holidays. But whether you're shopping, out for the evening or taking a trip out of town, there are simple steps you can take to help make your holidays safe and crime-free. These include safeguarding your wallet or purse, being aware of your surroundings, not overburdening yourself with packages and securing valuables in the trunk of your car. If you're traveling this holiday season, take the same burglary prevention measures you follow during the summer months: asking neighbors to watch out for your home, arranging for pickup or stoppage of mail and newspapers, and using timers to turn on lights and appliances in the home to make it look “lived in.” In addition, the holidays are a time when scam artists may show up at your door, posing as delivery personnel or charity volunteers. The MPDC has tips for avoiding being ripped off.

① Get details on these and other holiday safety tips at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/winter.shtml>

① To encourage DC residents to shop locally, the DC Council has approved a sales tax “holiday,” from November 26 through December 5. Items costing less than \$100 will be exempt from DC's 5.75 percent sales tax during these 10 days.

① With more and more people shopping online or using credit cards in stores, the potential for identify theft is greater than ever. Learn how to protect yourself and your identity at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/idtheft.shtml>

MPDC, FBI COMMEMORATE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF FATAL SHOOTING INSIDE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

It was one of the most horrific days in the long history of law enforcement in the Washington, DC area. On November 22, 1994, three law enforcement officers – two from the FBI's Washington Field Office, one from the MPDC – lost their lives when a homicide suspect, upset with police and armed with an assault weapon, entered the Cold Case Squad of the Homicide Branch on the third floor of Police Headquarters, at 300 Indiana Avenue, NW. The suspect shot and killed MPDC Detective Sergeant Henry J. “Hank” Daly, and FBI Special Agents Martha Martinez and Michael J. Miller. The suspect also wounded another FBI agent and a citizen, before committing suicide. The sudden and violent deaths of three such outstanding law enforcement professionals were a devastating loss to their families, their friends, their agencies and the entire DC law enforcement community. In observance of the 10-year anniversary of this tragedy, the FBI/WFO and the MPDC are holding a ceremony from 9:30-11 am on November 22, at Holy Rosary Church Fellowship Hall, 595 3rd Street, NW. For details, contact Debbie Weierman, FBI/WFO, at (202) 278-3519.

① In a fitting tribute to Sergeant Daly, the Council of the District of Columbia enacted DC Law 11-120, designating MPDC Headquarters as the Henry J. Daly Building. Learn more at:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/about/about/headquarters.shtml>

① Learn more about Sergeant Daly—and submit a personal remembrance of him or any other MPDC officer killed in the line of duty—by visiting the Department's online memorial at:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/officers/officers.shtml>

MPDC PARTICIPATING IN THIS YEAR'S HYPOTHERMIA WATCH PROGRAM

In September, Mayor Williams announced the District's Hypothermia Plan for 2004-2005, which includes a multi-agency and community response to the problem. Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition that can be particularly dangerous to homeless people living on the streets when the temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or the wind chill factor creates the same effect. The Hypothermia Plan calls for every government agency, every community and all residents to get involved and protect those at risk. The hypothermia season lasts from November 1 to March 31. Residents, business owners and others are urged to call the Hypothermia Shelter Hotline at 1 (800) 535-7252 to report the location of people who may need help when the temperature is below 32 degrees. The DC Department of Human Services coordinates shelter and other services for the homeless during hypothermia season. DHS also manages the Hypothermia Watch Partner Campaign in conjunction with the MPDC, DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, DC Department of Mental Health, DC Department of Health, and the DC Emergency Management Agency. In addition to helping to publicize the shelter hotline, MPDC officers have received training in hypothermia, and are once again helping to identify potential hypothermia victims and direct them to shelters and other resources.

MPDC SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR SEVERAL CIVILIAN JOB VACANCIES

The MPDC is currently accepting applications for a variety of civilian positions within the agency. Current openings include the following: a quality assurance specialist/automotive equipment (DS-901-11), a materials handler (RW-6907-05), a secretary/typing (DS-318-07) and a grant-funded office clerk position (DS-0303-05). The closing dates for the four positions vary, but all are in late November or early December. Salaries, units of assignment, tours of duty and other elements of the jobs also vary. The MPDC employs several hundred civilian members, working in various administrative, technical, operational and management positions.

NEWS & NOTES

Thanksgiving Day Schedule. In observance of Thanksgiving Day, administrative offices of the MPDC will be closed on Thursday, November 25. Police patrols and other essential operations will be fully staffed. Administrative offices will reopen on Friday, November 26, 2004.

Project Harvest. Again this year, the MPDC is teaming up with News 4 (WRC-TV) and WHUR-96.3 FM to collect food items and cash donations for the less fortunate during this holiday season. Donation boxes are available at most MPDC facilities, as well as Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Clubhouses. Donations will also be accepted outside the Old Post Office Pavilion on Tuesday, November 23.

Chief Ramsey on WOL's "Live at Five." Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls from 5-6 pm, on Wednesday, November 24, during his monthly appearance on the "Live at Five" program on WOL 1450-AM. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/media/media.shtm>.

Annual Awards Ceremony. The MPDC's Fifth Annual Awards Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, December 14, 2004, from 6-9 pm, in DAR Constitution Hall in Northwest DC. Outstanding sworn and civilian employees, along with community partners, will be recognized for their crime prevention efforts over the past year. Members of the public are invited to attend. For details, call Alton White at (202) 727-4770.

- ① For details about DC's Hypothermia Watch program, click on:
<http://dhs.dc.gov/dhs/cwp/view,a,3,q,492649,dhsNav,|30980|.asp>

- ① Details on the current vacancies, including the minimum requirements and application procedures, can be found online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

- ① For information about sworn career opportunities in the MPDC – including recruit and lateral-hire officers – go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 11/19/04

- ◆ 2004: 180
- ◆ 2003: 216
- ◆ % Change: -16.7%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 52.2% (94 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 11/13/04

- ◆ Total: 724
- ◆ Drugs: 148
- ◆ Weapons: 24
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 23
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 2

Juvenile Activity week end. 11/13/04

- ◆ Arrests: 37
- ◆ Curfew Violations: 19
- ◆ Truants: 49

Firearm Recoveries as of 11/17/04

- ◆ November: 101
- ◆ 2004 Total: 1,780

Traffic Fatalities as of 11/19/04

- ◆ 2004: 41
- ◆ 2003: 60
- ◆ % Change: -31.7%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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